

IN THE CLAIMS:

The pending claims should be amended to read as follows:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A removable dental appliance having a base adapted for locating inside of an arch of teeth of a wearer and an arch wire coupled to the base, ~~wherein an outer surface of the base is~~being contoured for contact with inner surfaces of the teeth, arranged such that when in use the arch wire extends around an outer periphery of a set of the wearer's teeth ~~such that with~~no interconnection between the arch wire and the base ~~exists~~existing intermediate the set of teeth, and the dental appliance is provided with ~~one or more~~an expansion screws ~~screw~~ for expanding the base, wherein the arch wire extends from one side posterior portion of the base to the other side posterior portion of the base for contact with outer surfaces of the set of teeth along an outside of the arch of teeth, and the arch wire exits the posterior portions on each side of the base at locations spaced from the arch of teeth, the arch wire extending from the posterior portions indirectly, generally rearwardly and outwardly relative to the wearer when in situ, to the set of teeth in bent portions of wire on each side of the base so as to allow flexure of the bent portions of wire between the base and the set of teeth, thereby promoting limited movement of the arch wire relative to the base when the dental appliance is in use.

25. (Currently Amended) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dental appliance is provided with a 3-way expansion screw mechanism for enlarging the maxilla of the wearer in left, right and anterior ~~directions~~directions relative to the wearer.

26-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein the dental appliance is for an upper jaw of the wearer.

29. (Currently Amended) A dental appliance as claimed in ~~claim 26~~, claim 24, wherein, when the dental appliance is in use, the arch wire extends continuously from a left side posterior portion of the base, outwardly behind a posterior tooth on the left side of the arch, forwardly along the outside left side of the arch, rightward along the outside front side of the arch, rearwardly along the outside right side of the arch, and inwardly behind a posterior tooth on the right side of the arch to a right side posterior portion of the ~~base~~, base, relative to the wearer.

30. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein the arch wire incorporates four U-loops.

31. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein the arch wire is provided with one or more C-clasps.

32. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 31, wherein at least one of the C-clasps is coupled to the arch wire at only one end portion of the C-clasp.

33. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein the base is provided with a bite plane.

34. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 33, wherein the bite plane is an anterior bite plane.

35. (Previously Presented) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 33, wherein the bite plane is a posterior bite plane.

36-43. (Canceled)

44. (New) A dental appliance as claimed in claim 24, wherein at each side posterior portion the arch wire extends within the base to the expansion screw so as to form a closed circuit.